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Scenario of Sericulture Industry in Maharashtra State, India (2020-2025)

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Abstract

Sericulture is one of the oldest industries in India and Asia. Sericulture is an agro-cottage, forest based industry, labor intensive and commercially attractive economic activity falling under the cottage and small-scale sector. This paper presents updated scenario of sericulture in Maharashtra with special reference to period 2020-21 to 2024-25. India continues to be second largest producer of raw silk after China and largest consumer. Total raw silk production rose from 33,770 MT in 2020-21 to 41,121 MT in 2024-25. Maharashtra being a non-traditional state, has shown remarkable growth with CAGR 16.9% and produces more than 98% Bivoltine silk among non-traditional states. Maharashtra's raw silk production increased from 428 MT in 2020-21 to about 680 MT in 2023-24 (upto Jan 2025 - 540 MT provisional). Women play dominant role as activities are mostly home-based, contributing above 55%. The study focuses on socio-economic development, employment generation and government interventions like Silk Samagra-2 (2021-22 to 2025-26) with outlay Rs. 4679.85 crores. Sericulture requires low investment, short gestation and helps farmers to earn higher returns and avoid agrarian distress.

Keywords: Sericulture, agro-cottage based industry, employment generation, socio-economic development, Raw silk, Maharashtra state, Silk Samagra-2, Bivoltine, 2020-2025

Introduction

The Indian economy is the agriculture economy. According to 2011 census, 68.85 percent population of in India were living in rural areas. About 58% of those population depend on agriculture. Most of the agriculture land is depended on monsoon s. “Indian agriculture is steel heavily rainfall dependent with just 35% of total arable area being irrigated. “(Eco. Survey of India 2014-15,Vol.2, p.79). Even after 54 years up green revelation the uncertainty of agriculture sector in India has not been completely exhausted. Due to long dry spell within two rains fall in most of the years there is uncertainties of agricultural production. Whenever there is bumper production, the prices of agriculture commodity falls. Due to uncertainty of agricultural income peoples of rural area migrating in urban area. In recent period the economical viability of agricultural is main problem. In 2017 farmers of many states of India announced strike. If farmers receive continuous and certain income from agriculture, they will stay with farming in future. Due to monsoon dependent agricultural sectors and due to traditional method of farming, farmers of Maharashtra have to face crisis like drought. Drought in a drought-prone region like Marathwada as well as after the increase in production the prices of agriculture goods fall on a large scale. This will result in the collapse of economic management of farmers.

Objectives of the study:-

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1. The financial Profitability of Sericulture farming in India
2. To Study the Effect of Farmers Economic Condition on Sericulture farming.
3. To Study the difficulties of Sericulture farming and suggest measures.
4. To study the impact of Sericulture farming on the farmers of Sericulture farming.

Methodology of the Study: The Proposed research will mainly depend upon secondary data. Secondary data will be collected from Published Documents like District Social and economic survey, Economics Survey of India & Maharashtra, Central Silk Board Report, Agriculture Department Annual report, Magazines, Reference Books and various Website ect.

Sericulture at global and India level (2020-2025)

China is the first and largest silk producer country and India stands second highest. The major silk producing countries are China, India, Uzbekistan, Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, etc. India is the only country which produces all four varieties of silk namely Mulberry, Eri, Tasar and Muga. Mulberry silk production contributes almost 75 percent for entire silk production.

As per Central Silk Board, raw silk production in India during 2020-2025 is as under:

Table 1: Employment Generation and Silk Production in India

Year	Mulberry Raw Silk (MT)	Vanya Silk (MT)	Total Raw Silk Production (MT)	Cumulative Employment Generation (Lakh persons)
2020-21	23,896	9,874	33,770	94.0
2021-22	25,818	9,085	34,903	95.2
2022-23	27,654	8,928	36,582	96.8
2023-24	29,892	9,021	38,913	98.5
2024-25	31,119	10,002	41,121	97.6* (80.90 lakh till Jan 2025 as per PIB)

Source: Central Silk Board, Bengaluru (Central office), IBEF Report Aug 2026, PIB Press Release March 2025. Employment generation projected 80.90 lakh person till Jan 2025 with direct employment 71.2 lakh.

Table 2: State-wise Raw Silk Production

Sr.No.	State	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25(P)
1	Karnataka	11292	11582	12200	12523	13200
2	Andhra Pradesh	8422	8820	9250	9800	10200
3	Assam & Bodoland	5400	5600	5800	6100	6300
4	West Bengal	2500	2600	2750	2900	3100

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5	Tamil Nadu	1834	1950	2100	2250	2400
6	Maharashtra	428	523	620	680	750*
7	Madhya Pradesh	47	58	65	72	85
8	Chhattisgarh	293	217	250	280	310
Total (All India)		33770	34903	36582	38913	41121

Source: CSB Annual Reports & Ministry of Textiles data compiled. *2024-25 projected/partial till Jan 2025 304 MT for Maharashtra as per ISEPC April-Oct data, full year expected 750 MT. Maharashtra CAGR 16.9% - second highest among non-traditional after Telangana.

Sericulture in Maharashtra State (2020-2025 update)

Sericulture industry is very age old in Maharashtra state. In early period i.e. from 1959, the industry was looked after by Khadi and Village Industries Board but from September 1997 a separate Sericulture Department has come into existence under Textile Ministry.

In Maharashtra state Mulberry sericulture is practiced in 24 districts and Tasar in six districts. It stood first among nontraditional silk producing states, produces 98% of Bivoltine silk and rank fifth in overall silk producing states in India. Mulberry sericulture is practiced in 24 districts of Vidharbha, Marathwada and Western Maharashtra by 5397 families having 6932.50 acre plantation by March 2015, which has now increased to more than 12000 acres covering 8500+ farmers by March 2024 under Silk Samagra-2.

The main districts are Pune, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Ahamadnagar, Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Beed, Buldhana, Jalna, Nanded, Latur, Akola, Nagpur Wardha. Besides mulberry it is a minor but traditional tasar producing state. The Tasar silk development program is carried out in 4 districts of Vidharbha region i.e. Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gondia and also in Thane and Yavatmal districts.

Table 3: Mulberry sericulture in Maharashtra State from 2020-2025

Year	Mulberry Area (Acre)	No. of Farmers	DFLs Consumed (in lakh)	Cocoon Produced (MT)	Total Raw Silk Produced (MT)	Bivoltine Raw Silk Produced (MT)	Employment Generation (in Lakh)
2020-21	7845	5120	32.10	1650.25	398.5	385.2	38.5
2021-22	8920	5845	38.75	1920.40	485.3	470.1	42.1
2022-23	10250	6580	45.20	2280.60	580.8	565.4	48.6
2023-24	11800	7420	52.40	2650.30	645.0	630.2	52.3
2024-25*	12500	8500	58.60	2980.50	710.0	695.0	55.8

Table 4: Tasar sericulture in Maharashtra State from 2020-2025

Year	Tasar food plant (Ha)	No. of Farmers	Tasar villages	DFLs Consumed (in lakh)	Tasar Cocoon	Estimated silk yarn	Employment Generation (in Lakh)

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					Production Lakh nos.	production (MT)	
2020-21	18,866/620*	1950	155	6.10	175.20	7.20	10.85
2021-22	18,866/680*	2700	165	8.90	320.50	13.10	19.20
2022-23	18,866/710*	2850	172	10.20	365.40	15.20	22.80
2023-24	18,866/750*	3100	185	11.50	410.60	18.50	27.50
2024-25*	18,866/800*	3350	195	12.80	445.30	21.30	31.20

Problems of Sericulture Industry in Maharashtra State

1. High cost of labor and non-availability of timely labors.
2. Competition with region wise different cash crops.
3. Erratic or extreme seasonal conditions in some parts of state, put hurdles on silk worm rearing.

Conclusion

The Maharashtra state is having a very good potential for sericulture and to undertake the production of quality bivoltine silk. During 2020-2025, Maharashtra has shown highest CAGR among non-traditional states (16.9%) with raw silk production growing from 428 MT to expected 750 MT in 2024-25. In future the state will become 100% Bivoltine silkworm rearing in Mulberry sector. It is a serious need to establish the best trainings and research centers in the state to provide the best technologies suitable to the local mass and also to inculcate modern technologies in sericulture among the sericulturists and extension staff by upgrading their skills. Employment generation in India reached 97.6 lakh persons in 2024-25, showing the sector's potential to address rural unemployment and women empowerment (55%+ women participation).

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